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PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 14000.8.1.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
)
	Hugh S. West, Jr. et al.)
)
Serial No.:	10/786,186) Art Unit
) 3733
Filed:	February 25, 2004)
)
Confirmation No.:	2078)
)
For:	SUTURE SEPARATION AND ORGANIZATION)
	DEVICES FOR USE WITH GRAFT TENSIONING)
	DEVICE)
)
Examiner:	Tara R. George)
)
Customer No.:	022913)

TRANSMITTAL FOR PAYMENT OF ISSUE
FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention as set forth in each of the independent claims and the dependent claims must be read as a whole, and not as a single feature or subcombination of features which represent less than the entirety of the claimed invention as a whole. While a particular feature or subcombination of features referred to by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance may represent a basis for distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art, Applicants further submit that this may not necessarily be the *sole* ground for distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner's statement should, in

Applicants' view, not be read as constituting or meaning that the invention can or should be reduced to a single "feature" of the invention or to a subcombination of features that is less than the entire invention claimed as a whole, nor that the single feature referenced by the Examiner or subcombination of features referenced by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is the only or sole grounds for distinguishing the invention over the prior art of record.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any of the following fees that may be applicable to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 23-3178**: (1) any filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16; (2) any patent application and reexamination processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17; and/or (3) any post issuance fees under 37 CFR § 1.20. In addition, if any additional extension of time is required, which has not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to **Deposit Account No. 23-3178**.

Please address all future correspondence in connection with the above-identified patent application to the attention of the undersigned.

Dated this 9th day of February 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



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